



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800

www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Pam Bissonnette, Interim PW Director

Date: December 5, 2013

Subject: Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Briefing to Council

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council listen to a presentation by Puget Sound Energy on the Energize Eastside project. PSE has asked for time on the City Council agenda to provide an overview of this project. Gretchen Aliabadi, PSE Communications Manager and Energize Eastside core team member, will be making the presentation.

BACKGROUND:

In response to increasing demand for electric power, PSE is launching a new project to expand the eastside area's electric transmission system, which hasn't been upgraded since the 1960's. The Energize Eastside project will bring about 18 miles of new high capacity electric transmission lines to the eastside to ensure dependable power to residences and businesses.

During 2014 PSE will establish a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to engage the community when evaluating route options and identifying a solution that works best for the eastside. Neighborhoods in Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, and Renton will all be affected by this project and the proposed upgrades. Membership of the CAG will be made up of a diverse group of representatives, including city jurisdictions and other interest groups such as school districts, businesses, and residential organizations.

To learn more about [Energize Eastside](#), here is a link to their project website. An attachment of their project newsletter is also included.

Attachment A: Energize Eastside Project Newsletter

We welcome your questions and comments

CONTACT:

- Leann Kostek, Senior Project Manager
- Cody Olson, Community Projects Manager

EMAIL: energizeeastside@pse.com

VOICEMAIL: 1-800-548-2614

WEBSITE: pse.com/energizeeastside

PSE guiding principles

PSE will work with customers, local communities and regulators to plan, build and maintain a transmission system that provides safe, dependable and efficient electricity.

PSE will:

- Be a responsible neighbor
- Listen to our customers as individuals and as a community
- Provide timely and honest responses to questions
- Be specific in our commitments
- Be open to creative solutions
- Be fair and reasonable in our decision-making process
- Minimize project impacts to the maximum extent possible
- Communicate regularly with the community about project goals, project progress and upcoming events

Project schedule

2013	2014	2015-2016	2017-2018
	Project announcement	Public outreach	
	Public route discussion process PSE evaluates requirements and constraints	PSE selects a route	
		Final design and permitting	Permits issued
			Construction
			In-service



energizeEASTSIDE

project newsletter

Meeting Increasing Demand, Building for the Future

Our electric transmission system needs an upgrade

Growth is straining our region's existing transmission system

The Eastside is growing faster than any other region in Washington – the Puget Sound Regional Council recently estimated the Bellevue central business district alone will grow by more than 275% by 2040. But economic development comes at a cost.

This good fortune is straining our region's existing electric system. Growth studies project that demand for reliable power will exceed capacity as early as 2017. This doesn't mean the lights will go out, but without an upgrade, there is a greater possibility of outages for Eastside customers.

However, conservation alone is not enough. Our Eastside economy and population are growing far faster than our conservation efforts can keep up and without substantial electric infrastructure upgrades, tens of thousands of residents and businesses will be at risk of more frequent and longer outages.

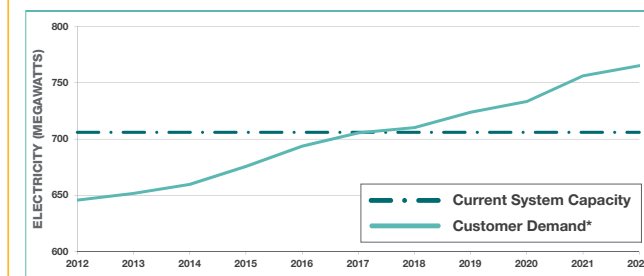
We need to act now

PSE is committed to providing reliable and safe power and helping to sustain the economic growth on the Eastside. PSE has a responsibility to provide a transmission system that keeps the lights on and businesses running in our communities.

Conservation alone is not enough to meet the challenge

Over the past few decades, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has taken significant steps to get the most out of the electric system. In fact, through upgraded lighting, appliances and equipment, increased weatherization, and energy-efficient building technologies, PSE customers helped us save enough electricity to power 30,000 homes in 2012.

Eastside customer demand forecast



*Customer Demand assumes 100% of conservation goals are met.

This chart shows customer demand with 100% conservation goals met compared to our current electric transmission system's capacity. By 2017-2018, demand will exceed our ability to provide dependable power.

Our environment presents future challenges as well. Climatologists suggest that in the coming decades, the region may experience severe storms more frequently. Our ability to recover quickly from major storm events, extreme heat or cold, and natural disasters depends on a robust electric infrastructure system.

Energize Eastside will power the area's growth into the future

The Energize Eastside project will bring new higher capacity electric transmission lines to the Eastside. PSE will seek public input to assure the project is done in a responsible manner. When complete, this effort will upgrade our existing transmission system, which has been serving Eastside communities since it was last upgraded in the 1960s. The new lines will provide more dependable power for all Eastside communities for many years to come.

Considering the options

PSE's planners and engineers analyzed a variety of approaches to address the Eastside's growing energy needs, including reducing demand through conservation, increasing the capacity of our existing electric transmission lines, generating energy locally, and building new infrastructure. PSE and third-party experts found that bringing new higher capacity electric transmission lines to the Eastside is the best way to meet growing demand.

We haven't yet determined the route new transmission lines will take, but we have identified potential route segments between Renton and Redmond, shown on the map to the right. We considered several factors to develop these segments, including geography, land use and impacts to the environment.

Potential route segments



Route options will be configured to go from segment A to segment N and connect with one of the potential substation sites. Visit pse.com/energizeeastside to view the project route segments.

We want your input

Working with the community to identify a solution

It takes years to plan, permit and construct new electric transmission lines, which is why we are getting started now. During 2014, PSE will engage our community in a conversation to identify a solution that works best for the Eastside. We will ask the public to provide input on which combination of route segments best serves the Eastside's needs. We will work with property owners, residents, businesses, hospitals and elected officials to reduce the impacts wherever possible. We are reaching out in a variety of ways and encourage you to get involved.

Follow the Community Advisory Group

PSE will convene a Community Advisory Group (CAG) in early 2014 to consider community values when evaluating route options. The CAG will learn more about the factors involved in developing the route segments, work with PSE to combine those segments into potential route options, and then recommend one route to PSE. PSE will select the preferred route that balances the needs of customers, the local community and PSE.

CAG membership will consist of representatives from the following interests:

- Economic development groups and businesses
- Environmental organizations
- Jurisdictions
- Property developers
- Puget Sound Energy
- Major commercial or industrial users
- Residential organizations
- School districts
- Social service organizations
- Tribes

CAG meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to attend and observe these meetings. To learn more about the CAG process, upcoming meetings, and additional details visit pse.com/energizeeastside.

Attend a community meeting

Through a series of community meetings, PSE will share the CAG's work to date, answer questions and ask the public for input on key milestones. Feedback from these meetings will help guide the CAG's work. Stay tuned for details about our first community meeting!

Schedule an informational briefing

We are available to give project presentations to your neighborhood or community group! If your group would like to learn more about Energize Eastside, contact us to schedule a briefing.

Learn more about Energize Eastside

For the latest project information, visit the project website at pse.com/energizeeastside. You'll find details on upcoming meetings, answers to frequently asked questions, an interactive map of the route segments, and additional project information.

